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Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

RM-75: Export Shipment of Ball Bearings to Satellite Countries

1. This office has received recent information which indicates that an American Firm has manufactured and been licensed to export to Poland between two and three million precision ball bearings. All sizes included in the order indicate a type of bearing which can be used in the manufacture of instruments, including the full range of military and aircraft instruments. (None of the bearings is over one inch in diameter.)

2. A similar order was received by the same company for shipment to Czechoslovakia of a quantity in the neighborhood of forty-five million ball bearings. Information indicates that export licenses are pending on this shipment.

3. This office has an increasing amount of information indicating the extremely critical nature of this commodity in countries behind the Iron Curtain. In all probability the need for ball bearings by these countries will become desperate within the next twelve months.

THEODORE RABBITT

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